

**R\$ 1.8 BILLION IN BRAZILIAN ENERGY INVESTMENTS IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS**

*Efficiency projects save the equivalent of energy consumption by 1 million households annually*

**BRASILIA (09 September 2011)** – Energy efficiency projects overseen by Brazil's National Energy Agency (ANEEL) have saved an average of 1.82 million megawatt hours (MWh) per year, the equivalent used by 1 million Brazilian households annually over the period March 2008 to June 2011. ANEEL data released on September 5 demonstrates the extent of energy savings in Brazil as a result of R\$ 1.8 billion in investments by electric utility companies, supporting 774 current energy efficiency projects.

The private sector energy initiatives encompassed by this investment include solar water heating, municipal energy management and cogeneration projects. The projects have cumulatively decreased energy demand during peak evening hours by approximately 611,800 kilowatts (kW).

ANEEL oversees the allocation of the R\$ 1.8 billion in investments, which to date have been primarily directed at improving energy efficiency for Brazil's low-income households. The most significant efforts to assist this population include upgrading nearly 500,000 refrigerators and replacing 14 million light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), as well as installing new solar water heating equipment in homes; these projects have accounted for 64 percent of the total investment.

Energy improvements for government facilities and public services (including town halls, schools, hospitals and lighting in public spaces) account for an additional 19 percent of the total R\$ 1.8 billion investment.

The investment is a result of Brazil's Energy Efficiency Program of Distribution Companies (EPE), which requires energy distributors to allocate a minimum of 0.5 percent of annual net operating revenue towards energy efficiency projects.

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## **Working in partnership for Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU integration - Amb. Peter Sorensen**

Ambassador Peter Sorensen arrived in Sarajevo last week to assume the office of the EU Special Representative. The press statement he gave upon his arrival stressed the need for the people and the political leadership of BiH to "get off the bench" and work toward reforms that will make EU membership possible.

Sorensen pointed in particular to the formation of the Council of Ministers, the Sejdic-Finci case, the national census, and the state aid law as areas in need of urgent action.

Read the statement [here](#).

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